

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SPIEGEL ARTICLE ON KISSINGER

1. THE NEWS MAGAZINE DER SPIEGEL THIS WEEK CARRIES AN ARTICLE ALLEGING THAT SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER REGARDS "...THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN GENERAL, AND ITS CHAIRMAN WILLY BRANDT IN PARTICULAR, AS A SECURITY RISK FOR EUROPE." THE ARTICLE ALSO ASCRIBES TO KISSINGER AN ASSERTION THAT "ALL OF EUROPE WILL BE MARXIST WITHIN TEN YEARS."

2. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT THIS STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO THE SECRETARY HAS APPEARED IN THE FRG PRESS, AND IT WAS ALSO ALLUDED TO DURING AN ADDRESS DELIVERED IN HAMBURG DECEMBER 15 BY KARL CARSTENS, THE PARLIAMENTARY LEADER OF THE CDU/CSU, WHO SAID THAT "IF THE REPORT IS ACCURATE" THE REMARK BY KISSINGER WAS "VERY UNWISE."

3. FIRST REPORTS IN FRG MEDIA ON THIS THEME APPEARED IN APRIL 1975 FOLLOWING PUBLICATION BY U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT OF AN ITEM SAYING THAT KISSINGER IS SAYING IN PRIVATE THAT ALL OF EUROPE WILL BE MARXIST WITHIN TEN YEARS." THE REPORT, WHICH WAS NOT PUBLICLY CONFIRMED, PROMPTED SHARP EDITORIALS IN AT LEAST TWO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRG NEWSPAPERS, ONE OF WHICH, THE BERLIN MORGENPOST,

DEMANDED THAT "THE REPORT BE DENIED VERY QUICKLY AND VERY CREDIBLY."

4. THIS WEEK'S SPIEGEL ARTICLE EXPANDS ON THE THEME, LINKING KISSINGER'S "SUSPICION" OF BRANDT WITH THE LIKELIHOOD OF WESTERN EUROPE'S GRAVITATION TOWARD MARXISM. THE ARTICLE SAYS THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF A COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER IN ITALY IS "KISSINGER'S NIGHTMARE," BECAUSE HE BELIEVES SUCH A DEVELOPMENT COULD FORCE GERMANY'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY ONTO A MARXIST COURSE. "INSPIRED BY A POPULAR FRONT GOVERNMENT IN ITALY (KISSINGER BELIEVES) THE LEFTIST WING OF THE SPD WOULD RISE AGAINST CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT," THE ARTICLE SAYS, ADDING THAT KISSINGER "FEARS THAT THE ATLANTICIST SCHMIDT COULD (THEN) BE FORCED BY HIS OWN PARTY TO TAKE A POSITION DISTANT FROM THE USA AND NATO."

5. THE ARTICLE SAYS THAT WHEN BRANDT GOT WORD OF KISSINGER'S "ROUGH APPRAISAL" HE GRUMBLED: "KISSINGER REALLY HAS ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT THAT HE DOESN'T HAVE TO DREAM UP ANY RELATING TO THE SPD."

6. A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE SPIEGEL ARTICLE AND THE BACKGROUND OF MEDIA HANDLING OF THIS THEME WILL FOLLOW IN AN AIRGRAM.

7. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOT SO FAR BEEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE SPIEGEL REPORT. IF WE ARE ASKED TO COMMENT, WE WOULD STATE--UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED--THAT WE DO NOT COMMENT ON SUCH STORIES.
HILLENBRAND

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